

MIDWEST DIGEST

S.D. Teen Accused Of Assaulting Girl In Park

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A teenager from Irene has been arrested on suspicion of groping a 7-year-old girl in a bathroom at a Sioux Falls park.

Sioux Falls police say the girl went to use the bathroom at Sertoma Park Wednesday evening and was grabbed by the 15-year-old boy and pulled into a bathroom, where he groped her until she bit his hand and ran.

Police say both the girl and the teen were at the park with their respective families. The teen faces charges of second-degree kidnapping and sexual contact between two people under age 16.

County Weed Crew Whacks Alfalfa Field

CHADRON, Neb. (AP) — A county crew in Nebraska's Panhandle mistook 20 acres of alfalfa for 20 acres of weeds and applied enough herbicide to wipe it out.

Becky Paulsen is weed superintendent of Dawes County. She told county commissioners at their meeting Wednesday in Chadron that she's waiting for a damage estimate, which among other factors depends on how many cuttings of the animal forage the owner could have gotten this year.

The commissioners' reactions were mixed. Commissioner Roger Wess said, "It looks like these guys had never been on a farm before."

Paulsen said the error was a fireable offense for her and the two equally apologetic workers, but Commissioner Don Blausey suggested training them would be better than firing them.

S.D. Murder Trial Delayed Until Next Year

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — The trial for an Indiana man accused of killing a South Dakota teenager has been moved from late July to mid-January.

Attorneys for 21-year-old Alexander Salgado, of Fort Wayne, Ind., made the request Wednesday. Salgado waived his right to a speedy trial and the judge granted the request.

Salgado has pleaded not guilty to killing 16-year-old Jasmine Guevara, whose body was found last Nov. 10 in the trunk of a burned car in a rural area near Mitchell. A 15-year-old girl also is charged in Guevara's death.

Judge Sean O'Brien also ruled that the jury pool will include patrons of a business that enables travelers to keep a South Dakota address for such purposes as cheaper vehicle licensing. Salgado's attorneys wanted that to get a more diverse jury pool for their client, who is of Mexican descent.

Arraignment Set For S.D. Murder Suspect

PIERRE (AP) — An arraignment has been set for a Blunt woman accused of killing her husband.

Forty-seven-year-old Connie Hirsch is scheduled to enter a plea to a first-degree murder charge on June 2.

Authorities say Hirsch shot her 65-year-old husband, Jerold, on May 9, at a home near Pierre where she worked as a caregiver for three developmentally disabled people. Court documents say Hirsch told authorities that her husband had abused her. She is being held without bond.

Neb. Woman Sued, Arrested On Theft Charges

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lincoln woman accused in a lawsuit of stealing nearly \$137,000 from her former employer now faces criminal charges, too.

Police say 27-year-old Ariel Rivera was arrested Tuesday on a warrant charging her with felony theft from Christensen Audiology & Hearing Aid Center.

On Monday, she and her estranged husband were sued by the center, which says she forged its checks. The lawsuit says Thomas Rivera was unemployed during the time of the alleged thefts, March 2008-March 2010, and therefore should have known where all the extra money was coming from.

A publicly listed phone number for both Riveras has been disconnected. A call to her attorney was not immediately returned on Thursday. Case records don't list an attorney for Thomas Rivera.

State Finds More Wasting Disease In Cervids

PIERRE (AP) — The state's wildlife division confirmed another 25 cases of chronic wasting disease in deer and elk during the latest testing period.

The disease attacks the brains of infected animals and is always fatal. The Game, Fish and Parks Department tests for the disease in samples provided by hunters and in sick animals observed in the wild.

The state tested 1,823 samples from last July through January this year.

L&C Gets Low Bid For Beresford Pipeline

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The board of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System has opened bids for construction of roughly five miles of pipe to connect Beresford with the system.

The low bid of \$4.2 million from SJ Louis of Rockville, Minn., came in under the engineer's estimate of almost \$4.6 million.

The board will vote on the bid at its May 27 meeting. The \$550 million Lewis & Clark Regional Water System is a partnership of 15 cities and five rural water districts in South Dakota, Iowa and southwestern Minnesota that would get treated water from wells near the Missouri River.

Beresford has reserved 875,000 gallons of water a day. The city and nine other partners are expected to begin receiving water in spring 2012. Other partners will be brought online as funding allows.

Company Ordered To Cease And Desist

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota officials have ordered a company to stop doing business in the state because it is not licensed.

The South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation's insurance division issued the temporary cease and desist order against Real Benefits Association, along with Serve America Assurance LTD, Beema-Pakistan LTD and Viking Administrators.

Division Director Merle Scheiber (SHY'-buhr) says none of them are licensed health insurers or licensed discount medical plan organizations.

Real Benefits Association did not immediately respond to a telephone message left by the Associated Press on Thursday seeking comment.

S.D. Center Helping With Gulf Oil Spill

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Data Center near Sioux Falls is collecting satellite images to help track the flow of oil from the massive spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The oil has been leaking since BP's offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank off Louisiana a month ago. Oil is starting to clog Louisiana marshes and some has reached a powerful current that could take it to Florida and beyond. EROS Disaster Response Coordinator Brenda Jones calls it "alarming."

The center has been collecting pictures from more than a dozen satellites and sending them to the agencies responding to the disaster.

Center officials say this is uncharted territory for them because they usually help with shorter-term disasters such as hurricanes.

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Judge Rules Sioux Falls' Administrative Appeals Process Is Unconstitutional

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A judge has ruled that Sioux Falls' administrative appeals process is unconstitutional.

Dan Daily sued the city in 2008 after receiving four citations in two years for violating city code with a driveway extension up to a fire hydrant. He lost his appeal to the city but decided to pursue the matter in the courts rather than pay the \$200 fine.

"I'm a combat vet, and nobody is going to walk all over my rights like that," said Daily, who served in Vietnam. "And I'm not going to let them do that to

other people." Second Judicial Circuit Judge Kathleen Caldwell said the city's enforcement violated Daily's constitutional rights to due process and equal application of the law. The ruling also said the city's administrative appeals ordinance violates the constitutional rights of all residents to due process.

The city's convoluted code enforcement and administrative appeals process has been criticized for years. The judge said the process places the burden of proof on the resident rather than the city.

"You are guilty before you walk through the door," Daily said.

Assistant City Attorney Shawn Tornow said "the city has simply tried to follow the ordinances that provide code enforcement and due process for citizens."

He said city officials will study the ruling and then decide within the following two weeks how to proceed. Options include changing the administrative appeals ordinance, requesting another hearing or filing an appeal.

Johnson Seeks To Help Homeless Vets

PIERRE (AP) — Sen. Tim Johnson says the nation must do more to eliminate homelessness among military veterans.

The South Dakota Democrat co-chaired a hearing Thursday in Washington to discuss an effort to end homelessness among veterans within five years.

Johnson says the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 107,000 veterans were homeless last year. He calls that "a tragedy."

The senator says South Dakota does a good job of helping homeless veterans, but an estimated 740 were homeless in the state last year.

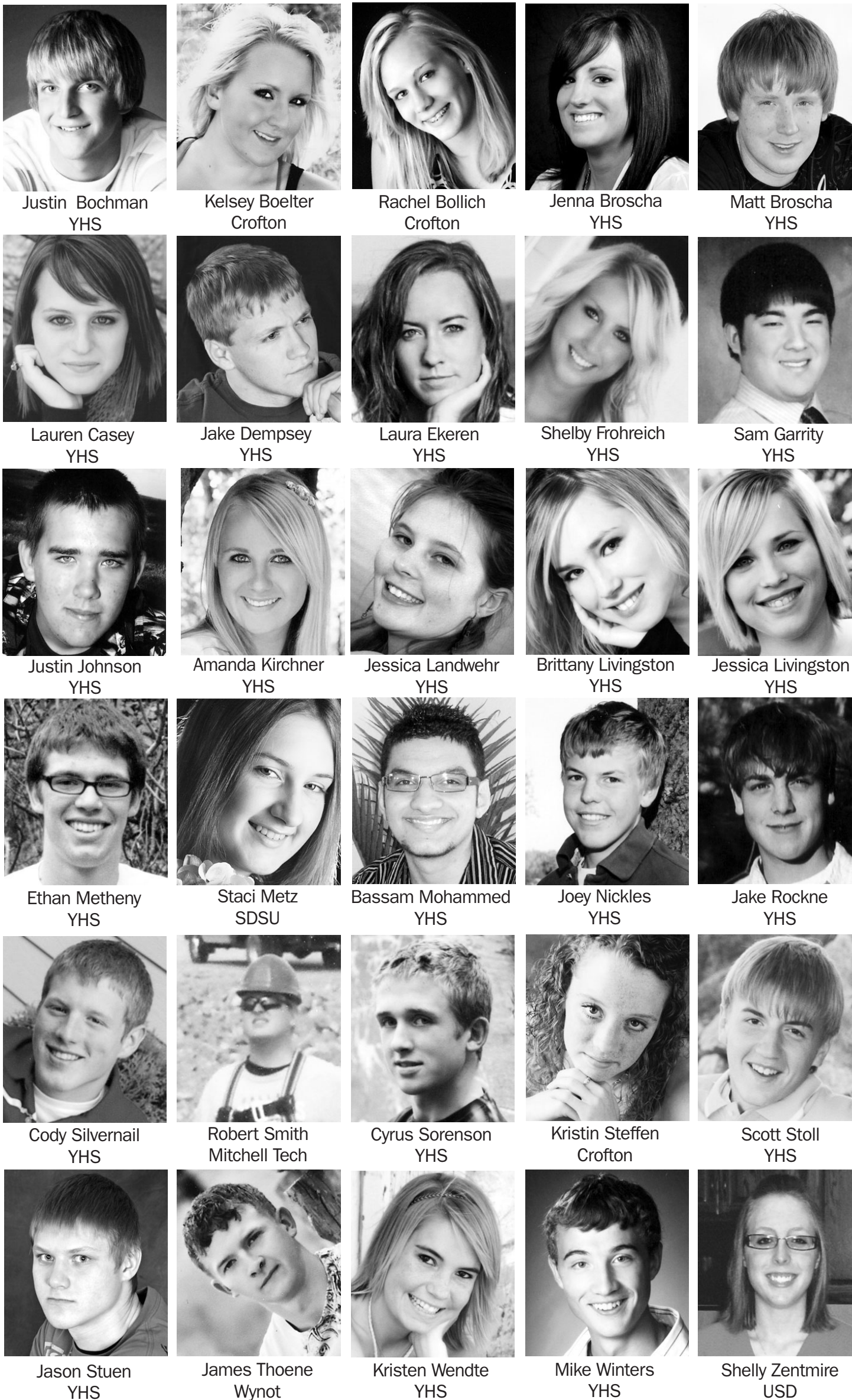


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Tonya Graff, Hy-Vee Store Director



Not Pictured: Jordan Nelson, Crofton & Zach Crawford, Crofton

Best Wishes To The Class Of 2010!

